

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Matt Disston, President****Mike Safranski, Vice President****Jim Haselton, Director****Glenn Acosta, Director****Ed Mandich, Director****GENERAL MANAGER****Don Chadd**

# ON TAP

**Volume 16 Issue 1****FEBRUARY 2010**

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## Water Supply Shutdown in January

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Trabuco Canyon Water District has received formal notice that its source of water will be interrupted for approximately 8 days in January.

Metropolitan Water District (MET) has informed all retail water agencies (both water districts and cities) in Orange County that the Diemer Water Filtration Plant will be shut down for maintenance and repairs from January 24<sup>th</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>. This shutdown will also include the water supply pipeline from Lake Matthews to the Diemer Water Filtration Plant.

This shutdown will have significant impact on all of the retail water agencies in south Orange County (from the El Toro Y south) due to the fact all of these agencies are water importers and rely heavily on MET to supply water to their respective agencies on a continuous basis. Each water retailer has its own contingency plan for a prolonged interruption and each agency will put their respective plans into place during the time of this outage.

Reservoir capacities for storage of water vary from district to district. This water supply interruption will impact water retailers in various ways.

The time of year for the MET maintenance and repair of the Diemer Filtration Plant and Lake Matthews Water Supply Line is deliberate. It is anticipated water demands will be at low

levels due to cool weather. Rain during this time could also occur.

Needless to say, the messaging for water conservation from all water retailers is probable before and during the event; TCWD will be no exception.

So what are TCWD's plans to deal with this water supply interruption?

Normally, TCWD takes untreated water from the Lake Matthews Water Supply Line before it arrives at the Diemer Filtration Plant by way of the Santiago Lateral Pipeline and the Baker Pipeline. TCWD then treats this water at its own water treatment plant in Lake Forest and delivers it to TCWD customers. During summer when water demand is at its highest, TCWD can also take delivery of treated water from the Diemer Filtration Plant through the Allen McColloch Pipeline which is delivered through the South County Pipeline, which is connected to transmission lines of the Santa Margarita Water District.

During the shutdown, TCWD will take water from Irvine Lake into the Baker Pipeline and treat this water at TCWD's water treatment plant. It is anticipated the supply will easily meet demand.

However, this doesn't mean TCWD won't ask you to conserve, because we will. If in fact the TCWD water plant can produce more water than there is demand, then TCWD will make this water available to neighboring agencies to assist with water supply during the time of the shutdown.

### **YOUR JANUARY WATER BILL**

Please notice there are now two additional meter charges on this bill. After public notice in September of 2009, a public hearing was held in November of 2009 regarding the meter charges. The Board of Directors approved these meter charges in November of 2009 to be effective on January 1, 2010.

For information purposes, here are explanations concerning the meter charges:

**WR & ESF CHG** – This is abbreviation on your bill due to the limitation of TCWD's billing system. This abbreviation stands for Water Reliability and Emergency Storage Fund. This is a meter charge to fund TCWD's well upgrade project, a percentage (4.598%) purchase in the Baker Regional Water Treatment Plant, and a domestic water storage reservoir and distribution improvements.

The actual meter charge amount was determined by the size of the meter at the customer's location and the demand the meter places on the water system capacity requirements of TCWD. The fee will last for 20 years.

**Pass Thru Chg** – This meter charge is similar to the meter charge that was placed in effect for 25 months several years ago. Again, the State diverted a portion of the ad valorem property taxes the District receives as part of its revenue structure. This time the State diverted \$96,000 in the fall of 2009.

The same methodology for the meter fee was used as in the WR&ESF. This meter charge will only last for 12 months.

## **TCWD'S ON TAP**

### **IRRIGATION TIMER BATTERIES**

It's a new year and time to check and change, if necessary, the batteries in your irrigation timers. These are usually nine volt batteries.

The Regular Board Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

### **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

- ◇ December 16, 2009 – The Board of Directors elected a new President and Vice President
- ◇ Received a status update regarding water monitoring and conservation efforts
- ◇ Received and filed the GASB 45 Actuarial Valuation for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2009 and ratified an Agreement for Services with The Epler Company
- ◇ Entered into an Agreement for Services for Geotechnical Observation and Testing Services for the Rose Canyon and Lang Wells Upgrades to Treatment Facilities Project
- ◇ Determined to continue participation in the Baker Regional Water Treatment Plant Facility and approved the Baker Pipeline Capacity Transfer Memorandum of Understanding

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We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Sharon E. Smith, Editor, TCWD's *ON TAP*

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